

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: August 20, 2019

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Town Hall

Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Mary McGurn, Jason LaForest, Marj Wexler, Eileen Vining and for parts of the meeting Ashley Decker.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the following meeting were accepted with corrections: July 30, 2019, August 7, 2019, August 13, 2019.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

The board interviewed Ashley Decker for the position of part-time Police Officer. Ashley had been a part-time officer in training in Egremont under Chief Josephson. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Ashley again on a one-year probationary basis on Level A of the wage scale.

TOWN OFFICIALS:

The Board discussed with Police Chief LaForest the need for traffic control at the Town's b-day celebration at April Hill on Saturday, August 24.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to accept the proposal from Fiber Connect for free broadband internet service at the Library, the South Egremont School, and for Wifi at French Park that may cost the town up to \$10,000 for the equipment.

Vice-Chairman Vermeulen updated the Board on the progress with the Fiber Connect agreement and the funding from MBI. Both are moving forward with Jeremia Pollard drafting the agreement, which MBI is requiring be for 10-15 years, which may require a town meeting vote, and be very detailed and inclusive to protect the town in any eventuality. The agreement must also cover what is happening on the private ways even if not funded by the MBI grant. If MBI does not fund Fiber Connect up front they will make payments in arrears and there is no delay on processing these payments one the town is fully lit. MBI has suggested the Town make an agreement with Holyoke Gas for back up to Fiber Connect.

The Board will consider applying for a grant to have the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan updated. The grant deadline is in May of 2020.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board reviewed the warrant for the September 17, 2019 Special Town Meeting and changed the order of the articles. The warrant currently includes an article to pay some bills that didn't get paid in FY 2019, the \$200,000 for the second phase of the engineering work on the Mount Washington

reconstruction, the Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw, the 3% local option retail marijuana tax, fund to make repairs at the town's cemeteries, and approval of a 15 year agreement with Fiber Connect.

The Town's birthday celebration is August 24 at April Hill. Plans seem to be set and the weather forecast is calling for perfect weather. George will announce the recognition of those town officials who left service this past year and Lucinda will distribute the certificates.

The Board has had no response to its latest draft of the Retail Marijuana Establishment Host Agreement.

Steve Agar, Chairman of the Water Department, reported that the staffing plan submitted to DEP had to be re-done but has since been accepted. The emergency plan has been completed and a copy will be given to the Board. The plan to raise rates as required by DEP goes into effect on September 1, 2019. The Corrosion Control system is supposed to be completed by August 31 but may be a few days behind schedule. The engineering for the system had to be revised. The Water Department needs to formulate a capital improvement plan.

The Board discussed the verbal complaint received about the tennis courts in which it was reported that wait lines were over 2 hours and someone was using the courts to give professional lessons. The complainer asked that signage be put up limiting play time to 1.5 hours and banning the use of the courts for lessons. The Board decided to take no action at this time and see how things progress.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The South Egremont School House is moving towards completion even though there have been some issues with the ramp and the railing. The building will not be painted by the 28th but the exterior will be scraped and any remaining lead paint encapsulated and primed so there will be no lead paint issue.

The School Committee is voting on Thursday whether to have the classroom open on the 28th.

The Board eagerly awaits the outcome of the August 27th hearing on Mount Washington to discuss the new 911 numbering system.

Construct has sent a written update on the Affordable Housing project explaining the delay because of the case in Land Court. They are confident the project will move forward next season. Construct continues to work with the Housing Committee to form homeowners association rules and to formulate a housing plan.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on September 10 and 24, as well as prior to the Special Town Meeting on September 17, and October 8. The Board will generally go every other week from there.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.